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# BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

FROM THE  
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS  
AND BLACK HILLS

1947



**OENOTHERA FREMONTI** smiles at the light-flooded skies of its native Great Plains with the gracious beauty of a plant thoroughly at home, conscious of its high perfection of form and habit and adaptation and certain of its rating among its neighbors and the elite of the rock plant world.

Light sun-reflecting gold flowers, to nearly four inches wide, open to well along in the day, leaves silvery with appressed silky hairs.

Fremonti's native footing is of clay loam and rock chip or limestone fissures with a little soil.

**CLAUDE A. BARR**

**PRAIRIE GEM RANCH**

**SMITHWICK, S. D.**



**FOREWORD:** Here, there and everywhere even the difficult ones among the Great Plains plants are being grown successfully, by simple good fortune when a natural environment includes the right soil types and good drainage, or by the expedients of artificial screes, sand beds, etc.

The made soils vary from the extreme of 9 parts of bank gravel and sand to 1 of good loam, found effective for Cacti in wet climates, to the 2 parts of stone chips to 1 of coarse sand and 1 of good soil recommended by the American Penstemon Society for their specialty in moist climates, and on down to 1 of gravel or chips, 1 of sand, 1 of soil over a layer of gravel, or merely a sub-layer of gravel under the average garden soil where such soil is not too rich and moisture retentive.

Whatever formula is employed, the desideratum is drainage such that water will not stand in or on the rooting medium during prolonged wet periods. A further aid in keeping crowns and woolly leaves of certain dry plains plants relatively dry is a surfacing of hard stone chips.

**SERVICE:** High quality plants only are sent on your order. We do not substitute without permission. Our packing will please. In addition to culture suggested in this catalog, special advice is offered when it may prove useful, or on request. Every effort will be made to get shipments out when desired and a statement of your preferred date will be appreciated.

**PRICES** include prepaid delivery.

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## HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

**Achillaea lanulosa** A pleasant little non-ramping Yarrow with heads of unusual whiteness. Suggests *A. millefolium* but flowers at 6 to 9" and travels only an inch or two a year. Clump 35c.

**Actinea fastigiata** Rock garden plant of the first order, indigenous to the Plains. Lovely soft yellow daisies 4 or 5" above narrow green leaves. Recurrent bloom. Stock limited. 65c each.

**A. simplex** Wide daisies of brilliant gold 4 to 8" above narrow silvery leaves. Fine show in June, occasional later. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Agastache anethiodora** Anise Hyssop. Delightfully fragrant tall herb, spikes of purple-blue continuously, late June on. Rich soil, shade. 50c; 3, \$1.15.

**Anemone caroliniana** Prairie Anemone. Inch and a half wide, of 8 to 20 white or blue cupped segments, 4 to 10" high. Brave and dainty and jewel-like. Summer dormant. 3, 50c; doz. \$1.50.

**A. patens nuttalliana** Pasque Flower. Large six-pointed stars of satiny lavender. March, April. State flower, South Dakota. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Antennarias**, Pussy-toes, Ladies' Tobaccos, are among the most valuable evergreen, slow spreading rock garden ground covers.

**A. aprica** Broad little leaves of silvery olive in inch high evergreen mats, pussy-toe blossoms at 4". Gray-white flowered, 25c; soft pink, 40c.

**A. campestris** Broad leaves of rich soft deep green lined with white; "toes" white or silvery. 35c.



**A. microphylla** Tiny bluish silvery leaves in charming pattern and texture. White furry "toes." 35c.

**A. obovata** Like a larger aprica; gray "toes." 25c.

**A. rosea** Narrower leaved than aprica, with "toes" of rich deep rose. Strikingly lovely, new. 50c.

**Arenaria hookeri** Bevies of white flowers in June. Tap-rooted needle-leaved plant of rich deep green for dry scree or lime gravel. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**Artemisia frigida** Low, tufted, feathery, silvery and fragrant Sage. Arching silvery spikes with tiny yellowish bells, August. 25c; 3, 65c.

**Asclepias pumila** 8" Milkweed, like a diminutive fir tree, umbels of creamy white, mid-summer, on. 30c. Very rare light pink form, 50c each.

**Aster fendleri** Charming new 10 to 12" aster, selected type, covered with dainty cupped blossoms of lilac-blue. September. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**A. kumleini** Prairie Gem Blue. One of the finest native asters, a broad 12" high sheet of blue and gold, September. Unequaled selection. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**A. kumleini** Choice varieties, Dream of Beauty pink or lacy silver-blue. Height to 15". 35c.

**A. meritus** Rare 8 to 12" aster with special merit of July flowering. Much admired pinkish violet in closely set corymbs. 50c; 3, \$1.10.

**A. ptarmicoides (Unamia alba)** Cream centered, white rayed, long season beauty, beginning in July. 10 to 15". Lasting cut flower. 35c; 3, 90c.

**Aster Black Hills** A magnificent tall aster, to 30" or more, frequent in Black Hills gardens but seemingly unknown to the trade. Florets an inch and a half wide, an unsurpassed blue. 50c.

**Astragalus gilviflorus (Orophaca caespitosa).** Low 8 to 9" wide cushion of silver with a snow of stemless blossoms in April and May. 35c; 3, 85c.

**A. goniatus** Fresh lavender bonnets accented with purple amid green lace leafage, June to August, 4 to 8". May need confining. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**A. missouriensis** Brilliant display of magenta purple on a 12 to 20" circle of prostrate stems. 35c.

**A. spatulatus (Homalobus caespitosus)** One of the beautiful treasures of the rock gardener's world, cushion, studded with blue-purple. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**A. tridactylicus** Red Orophaca. A silvery cushion blossoming into delightful lavender-rose. These tap-rooted cushions need lean limy scree. 50c; 3, \$1.15.

**Callirhoe involucrata** Poppy Mallow, Wine Cups. Deep glossy cups of intense wine red, long summer season. Trailing stems to 25". 35c; 3, 75c.

**Campanula petiolata** Western Harebell. Blue-purple or lavender flaring bells in profusion, June and later. 8 to 18". 35c; 3, 85c.

**Cerastium strictum** Earth hugging mat of vivid deep green, multitudinous white flowers, to 8", May to July. Like a larger C. arvense. Clump, 35c.

**Chrysopsis villosa** Golden Aster. Massed beauty in richest tone, Aug.-Sept. 12". For best effect shear back to 4" in June. Finest type, 35c; 3, 85c.

**Clematis (Viorna) scotti** Leather Flower. Glaucous



plant, intriguing urns of blue or purple, May, June. Glossy seed plumes. 12". 50c; 3, \$1.25.

**C. (Atragene) tenuiloba** Surprisingly large nodding purple blossoms of distinct form and beauty, May, June. 8 to 10". Spreads slowly. Rare. 75c; 3, \$2.00.

**Dalea (Parosela) aurea** Rare, novel and exotic appearing plant, silvery green and airy light yellow, in Prairie Clover effect, 10 to 16". 50c.

**D. enneandra** Quite different, with white and silver in slender swaying racemes, 25" or more up. Blossom effect, June-August. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Dodecatheon vulgare (pauciflorum)** As many as 15 darting rose and gold blossoms to the umbel. This 4 to 10" gem is the most adaptable of the Shooting Stars. 40c; 3, \$1.00; doz. \$3.50.

**D. vulgare White Comet** Shining white with a ringlet of gold, otherwise as above. New. 75c each.

**Echinacea angustifolia** Pink Coneflower. Wide rosy rays about a glossy mahogany cone. Strikingly different and beautiful. Foliage to 5", blossoms at 10 to 14". 35c; 3, 85c; doz. \$2.50.

**Erigeron asper** Rare form, July flowering, at 9 or 10", inch and a quarter wide daisies with dense shaggy fringe of rich lavender. Valuable, new, 50c.

**E. caespitosus** Fine white and gold inch wide daisies at 4 to 8". June. Unobtrusive beauty. 50c.

**E. flagellaris** Whiplash Daisy. Bountiful little white and gold blossoms in long season. Ground cover, with runners. Clump, 25c; 100 plants, \$2.50.

**E. nematophyllus** Upstanding white and gold jewels of May and June, inch wide, crowded, 4" above a green cushion. For sunny scree, 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**Erigeron Prairie Gem** Like flagellaris but more dainty, less invasive, greener and lobed leaved. 50c.

**Evolvulus nuttallianus** A "stays put" 8 or 10" silky gray bushlet with quaint half-inch lavender morning-glories. Distinctly not on the pest order. 35c.

**Gutierrezia sarothrae** Golden Dome. Countless fine stems and leaves of vivid green in a hemisphere that turns to glowing gold in September. 12". 35c.

**Hedeoma camporum** Perennial Pennyroyal. Trim 8" rounded bushlet, flushed with pink-lavender mint blossoms, June on. Fine fragrance. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Iris missouriensis** Slender upright foliage, graceful blossoms of silvery blue, to 18", June. 40c.

**Lathyrus incanus** Sand Pea. Purple-rose banners, pink to white wings, large blossoms in clusters of two to seven, May. 4 to 10". Stem and leaf glaucous, downy. **L. ornatus**, the same except glabrous, often brighter in banner. These are spreaders worth controlling. Either, 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Lesquerella spatulata** Bladder-Pod. A gem one must see, dainty, festive in brightest yellow crucifer blossoms, May-June. 4", spread 10". Beautiful gray-green rosettes. Scree with lime. 35c; 3, 80c.

**Leucocrinum montanum** Sand Lily. Stemless little lilies, waxy white, gold stamened, fragrant, in bountiful succession from a tuft of grassy leaves, April, May. Cover crown 2". 35c; 3, 90c; doz. \$3.00.

**Liatris intermedia** Handsome dwarf Blazing Star, a 16" *L. squarrosa*. Fine purple, late summer. 40c.



**L. ligulistylis** Blazing Star. Lovely showy clear purple, inch wide flower heads, 10 to 30 or 40 in erect spike, 18" or higher, July. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**L. punctata** Dwarf Gayfeather. Fine transparent purple in dense fluffy spikes, 8 to 14". August. Foliage low. Sun, dry lean soil. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Lithophragma parviflora** Woodland Star. Slashed stars of white in capitate raceme, 4" in May, to 12" in June. Rich soil. Tiny tubers, 3, 50c; doz. \$1.60.

**Lithospermum linearifolium** Fringed Puccoon. Soft glowing yellow ruffled trumpets, May, 6 to 12". Free blooming, charming. 35c; 3, 90c.

**Malvastrum coccineum** Flame Mallow. Arresting salmon-scarlet in short dense spires, to 10". Long season. Leaves deeply cut, grayish. 40c; 3, 90c.

**Mertensia lanceolata** Prairie Bluebell. As thrilling as the first bluebird come April clusters of bloom at 3", then more lavish blossoming to late June. Never above 10". Summer dormant. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Nothocalais cuspidata** Rich textured 2" wide golden blossoms, April, May, from ground cluster of wavy, white margined leaves. 40c; 3, 90c.

**Oenothera caespitosa** Gumbo Lily. Great, snowy, fragrant Evening Primroses upon the ground, in a patch of glossy lanceolate leaves. Open all day, May-August. Scree recommended. 35c; 3, 75c.

**Oe. fremonti** First offering. Grand yellow Evening Primrose of the Megapterium group. See cover description. Stock very limited. \$1.00 each.

**Oe. lavandulaefolia** Squarish upright blossoms of rich yellow, freely, June to frost. Open most of day. 4 to 6". For the most select company. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**Oe. serrulata** Unparalleled display of inch-wide gems of bright yellow, May-August. Open all day. Compact shrubby bushlet to 10" or so. 35c; 3, 75c. We are unable to offer the large flowered form in '47.

**Oe. speciosa** "So altogether engaging that one is tolerant of its colonizing," said Mrs. Wilder. 3", day-blooming fragrant white flowers to 12". 35c.

**Oxytropis lamberti** Purple Loco. Rich spectacular plumes of pea florets, red-purple to blue, light to dark, to 12". June. Low silvery foliage. 35c; 3, 75c.

**Penstemon albidus** Upright, 10 to 15", large flowered white. June blossoming. 35c; 3, 65c.

See Penstemon Society's advice (Foreword).

**P. alpinus** Fine blue, dark glossy leaved, much like glaber but only 12" high. Small stock. 50c each.

**P. angustifolius** Most adorable Plains species, melting deep azure with a harmonizing thread of soft pink at the throat. Plant glaucous. 35c; 3, 85c.

**P. crandalli** Evergreen creeper making broad mats, covered with upturned bells of blue, June. Light shade and moderate dryness. Clump, 60c.

**P. crandalli "procumbens"** Similar, tiny leaves broader, brighter, flowers smaller, bluer. 60c.

**P. glaber** Fine dark blue, to 18" or more, June, July, repeating if cut back. 35c; 3, 90c.

**P. gracilis** A light and graceful smaller flowered kind, in amethyst. 12", June, July. 35c; 3, 85c.

**P. grandiflorus** The stately Shell-leaf. Cool deep lavender and gray green. 30". June. 35c; 3, 90c.



**P. haydeni** Sandhills Penstemon. Large milky bluish, fragrant blossoms, gray-green plant of distinct character, 16 to 20". Season July. New. 75c each.

**P. nitidus** Three weeks earlier than angustifolius, lower, deeper blue, an indispensable. 50c each.

**Petalostemon oligophyllus** A western white blossomed Prairie Clover in many airy short spikes. 50c.

**P. purpureus** Purple Prairie Clover. Circlets of orange dotted purple-red, on deep green cones, June, July. 15". Scree or sand. 35c; 3, 85c.

**P. villosus** Velvet Prairie Clover. Plump cones of soft silvery rose and silvery green, lovely and decorative. July-Sept. 12". Same culture. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Phloxes** of the Great Plains delight in scree with a bit of richness. Drainage is essential. Keep cool until established, give half shade first summer.

**P. alyssifolia** Bounty of soft lavender pink inch wide fragrant blossoms. May, June. 3 to 5". Leaves lanceolate, edged white. Slow mat former. 35c; 3, 80c.

**P. andicola** Large blossomed creeping Phlox of the high prairies. April-June. 4", white. 35c; 3, 70c.

New blue-lavender, choice blossom form, 50c; 3, \$1.

New lovely powder blue, 50c each.

Select extra large white, 45c; 3, 90c.

**P. hoodi** Mossy green, snowed over with lovely little blossoms, April, May. Very slow spreading, finally making wide mats. 35c; 3, 70c.

**P. longifolia** Handsome upright species, to 6", cluster flowered, May. Leaves dark green, linear. New brilliant carmine, 75c each.

**Phlox Little Cheyenne** (hoodi X andicola) Most perfect little blossoms imaginable, shining white with the usual speck of gold. May. 50c; 3, \$1.00.

**Potentilla divisa** Astounding beauty in sunlit yellow from a tuft of silvered leaves, early May. 3", with a spread of 10". 50c; 3, \$1.35.

**Sedum stenopetalum** Bronzy green clustered rosettes, an inch or so high, showy heads of metallic yellow, to 6", June, July. Light shade. 35c.

**Senecio purshianus** Rock plant of all-season gray 2" foliage, displaying in June airy light gold blossoms at 8 or 9". 35c; 3, 75c.

**Sideranthus spinulosus** Massed inch wide asters in brilliant gold, Sept., Oct. Dense low type, 6". Fine textured frosty foliage. For hot sun. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Solidago glaberrima** Dwarf selection of the Smooth Goldenrod with charming broad, nodding-tipped panicles. August. Moderate traveler. 25c.

**S. mollis** Very attractive goldenrod bearing billowy heads at 4 to 12". September. Slow traveler. 25c.

**S. pulcherrima** September beauty in groups of plump tapering rods, to 16". Non-spreading. 50c.

**Talinum parviflorum** Little Sunbright. Airy rosy blossoms every summer afternoon, to 7", from a 2" tuft of succulent leaves. Tiny tubers, 3, 50c.

**Thalictrum venulosum** Especially good faintly bluish foliage masses, to 8", for all-summer effect. Bronzy bloom to 15 or 18". 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Thermopsis rhombifolia** Dwarf Golden Pea. Broad packed racemes of glowing medium yellow, May. 8 to 12". Unusual, beautiful, colonizer. 40c; 3, \$1.00.



**Townsendia exscapa** Easter Daisy. Tuffet of narrow silvery evergreen leaves, incredibly wide glowing pink daisies, all under 2" of height. April, May. For dryest leanest screes. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**T. sericea** Similar habit and more dwarf, one of the very first of the Plains' responses to spring. Early April. White or delicate pink. 40c each.

**Tradescantia bracteata** Rainbow Spiderwort. Blues and purples, bright rose, many others. Bloom begins at 4" in June, continues to 10" in late summer. Each 35c; mixed colors, 3, 60c; doz. \$2.00.

Sky blue, white, Appleblossom pink, each 50c.

**Verbena bipinnatifida** Continuous show in bright blue-lilac, May to October. Low, trailing, hardy but avoid winter wet at the crowns. 35c; 3, 75c.

**Viola adunca** A smiling little old man in deep blue. Often blooms in autumn. Part shade. 35c; 3, 75c.

**V. nuttalli** The violet of brilliant gold of the dry open plains. Heavy producer, April through May, 3 to 6". Sun or light shade. 35c; 3, 85c.

**V. pedatifida** Showy blossoms of sky blue carried above deeply incised leaves. Stemless. Any soil, light shade or sun. 35c; 3, 85c.

**V. rugulosa** White with violet pencilings, 6 to 12". Spreads by short stolons. Part shade. Clump, 35c.

**Yucca glauca** Most northerly ranging yucca, with white edged, bayonet-like evergreen leaves, to 20". Flower spike or panicle, 36 to 40", of pendant creamy bells, June, July. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**FOR GARDENS IN HALF SHADE** and moderately rich soil, well drained, are: *Achillaea lanulosa*, *Agastache anethiodora*, *Allium cernuum*, *Anemone patens*, *Antennarias campestris*, *microphylla* and *rosea*, *Asters meritus* and *ptarmicoides*, *Campanula petiolata*, *Cerastium strictum*, *Clematis tenuiloba*, *Dodecatheon vulgare*, *Erigerons asper* and *caespitosus*, *Iris missouriensis*, *Liatris ligulistylis*, *Lilium umbellatum*, *Lithophragma parviflora*, *Penstemons crandalli*, *crandalli procumbens* and *gracilis*, *Phloxes alyssifolia* and *hoodi*, *Sedum stenopetalum*, *Thalictrum venulosum*, and the violets excepting *V. nuttalli*. With adequate moisture, however, much sun is equally agreeable to these shade tolerant kinds.

### BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING

**Allium cernuum** Nodding Onion. Umbels of light shell pink, July; to 16". 35c; doz. 75c.

**A. textile** Broad upright umbels of green ribbed white stars, at 8", May. Dormant in summer. Alliums may be moved in spring. 3, 25c; doz. 50c.

**Brodiaea douglasi** Ample umbels of waxy blue-lavender, to 20", June. Beautiful and easy. Long slender leaves of green. 3, 35c; doz. 80c.

**Calochortus gunnisoni** Gunnison Mariposa. Very lovely white chalice with clusters of greenish hairs, July; 16". Grassy leaves. 3, 35c; doz. \$1.00.

**C. nuttalli** Sego Lily, Mariposa Tulip. Sun reflecting white with gold and maroon markings, June; 12". Slender glaucous leaves. 3, 35c; doz. \$1.00.

**Lilium umbellatum** True species. Orange red, to 4" wide, June, July; 1 to 3 upright blossoms at 10 to 18". Rich gritty soil, 4" deep, cool position, perfect drainage. Blooming size, 35c; one-inch, 50c.



**Zygadenus gramineus** False Camas. Massed creamy stars in a haze of golden stamens, erect spires, 8 to 16", June. Grassy leaves. 3, 25c; doz. 85c.

## COLD CLIMATE CACTI

**Cultural directions:** The following species will bear 30 degrees below zero, or more, out of doors, but must prepare for it by drying and shriveling in advance of winter. Planting in an ample depth of 9 parts of gravel and coarse sand to one part of good loam, has been found to produce lavish bloom and also to provide the essential winter dryness.

**Coryphantha vivipara** Ball, to 3" or more, showy carmine flowers, June. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Echinocereus viridiflorus** Cylindric, 3 to 4" tall; bright colored spines, glossy green-yellow blossoms, June. 25c; 3, 60c.

**Neobesseya missouriensis** Ball, to 2" or more, blossoms of yellow or pale orange, May. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Opuntia fragilis** Brittle Cactus. A pygmy prickly pear, with surprisingly large yellow blossoms, centered red, June. Free blooming strains, 25c; 3, 60c.

**O. imbricata** Tree Cactus. Attracting instant attention, carmine flowered, July, ribbed cylindrical sections in upstanding tree-like habit. 35c each.

**O. polyacantha** Many-spined prickly pear. 4" or larger sections, 4" silken yellow blooms. 30c; 3, 75c.

**O. humifusa** Sections 4 to 6", spines fewer; largest of silken yellow flowers, red filaments, late June. Ripe "pears" dark red, showy. 30c; 3, 75c.

## SHRUBS

**Amorpha canescens** Lead Plant. Low, gray velvety effect, with orange dotted purple fingers of blossom, June, July. Usually 12 to 25" tall. 75c.

**Artemisia cana** Rather stiff, erect gray Sage, to 2 to 3 feet. Leaves lance-linear, 1½ inches long. 60c.

**A. filifolia** Sand Sage. Very attractive, pleasantly fragrant, silvery, much branched. 2 to 3 feet. 50c.

**A. tridentata** Sagebush. Blue-silvered three-tipped little leaves, rather erect bushy plant. At its eastern range limit, near Prairie Gem Ranch, heights vary from 12 to 30". Nice fragrance. 75c.

**Atriplex canescens** Salt Bush. Gray-green in branch and leaf, a broad densely branched bush, to 24". Conspicuous fruit bracts, gray-green. 60c.

**Cercocarpus montanus** Mountain Mahogany. Little toothed leaves slightly grayish, blossoms interesting, seed plumes silvery, silky, reflecting light. Pleasing in shrubby groups. Upright, to 8 feet. \$1.00.

**Chrysothamnus graveolens** Rabbit Brush. Bright green, fine textured bush to 3 feet or so, every upper branch carrying a head of goldenrod-like bloom in September. Striking effect. 65c.

**Eurotia lanata** Winter Fat. 1 to 2-foot Sagey appearing plant, holding its leaves well into winter and adding white seed tufts in fall. 50c.

**Rhus trilobata** Squaw Sumach. Spreading or more erect bush, usually 2 to 5 feet, moderately dense, dark green. Dark red fruit clusters, magnificent autumn leaf colorings. 60c.

**Rose J. W. Fargo** A double wild rose of about 40 petals, beautiful form, "Wholly delightful wild rose pink," (Mrs. Henry.) Blossoms in clusters over many weeks, mainly July. 12 to 20". \$1.00.